

Gal 4 G.F. d
THE
WEYMOUTH GUIDE:

EXHIBITING THE
ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE OF
Weymouth and Melcombe Regis;

With a Description of
LULWORTH CASTLE,
THE
ISLAND of PORTLAND,

And other Places
Worthy the ATTENTION of STRANGERS
WHO VISIT
W E Y M O U T H.

To which is added, an Account of
The MINERAL WATER at NOTTINGTON,
about two Miles distant.

W E Y M O U T H :
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WEYMOUTH GUIDE

PRESENTING THE

ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE OF

Weymouth and Melcombe Regis

As a Town and Port

IN WILTSHIRE



BY J. W. COLEMAN

Worthy the ATTENTION of STRANGERS

WHO VISIT

W E Y M O U T H

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THE MINERAL WATER OF NOTTINGHAM

AND THE TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM

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perusal of those whose residence is of short duration, he thought a selection from that and other writers, with a few observations of his own, would not be altogether useless or uninteresting. He therefore begs leave

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following little Work owes its appearance to the repeated enquiries of many persons who, during a temporary visit at Weymouth, wished to know something of its history, and to be informed what places in the neighbourhood were objects of curiosity, and worthy the attention of a visit.

The Editor makes little claim to originality, Hutchins's History of Dorset having afforded him the greater part of his materials: but as a work of so elaborate a size, were it less scarce, is ill calculated for the

perusal of those whose residence is of short duration, he thought a selection from that and other writers, with a few observations of his own, would not be altogether useless or unentertaining. He therefore begs leave to offer them to the Nobility and Gentry who resort to this place, under the title of the **WEYMOUTH GUIDE**.

(15)
J. J. Banks 1785.

WEYMOUTH,

THIS place comprehends two distinct boroughs which were united by an act of parliament passed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. A small arm of the sea (serving for an harbour, over which is a wooden bridge) separates and distinguishes each town.—The modern and best built part is, strictly speaking, MELCOMBE REGIS. The old town, originally WEYMOUTH, stands on the other side of the Water. But now they are known only by the general Name of WEYMOUTH, which lies on the British Channel (in $2^{\circ} 34'$ of West longitude, and $50^{\circ} 38'$ North latitude) 83 leagues by sea, and 128 measured miles by land from London; 62 miles from Bath, and eight miles South of Dorchester, the County Town.

WEYMOUTH, takes its name from its situation on the mouth of the little river *Wey*, which rises four miles above at the pleasant village UPWAY, of which more will be spoken hereafter.

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Mr. Baxter says, " The Tounlet of *Way-*
 " *mouth* lyith strait again *Milton*, (i. e. *Mel-*
 " *comb*) on the other side of the Haven,
 " and at this place the water of the Haven
 " is but of a small brede [*breadth*]; and the
 " trajectus [*passage over*] is by a bote or a
 " rope bant over the Haven; so that yn the
 " ferry-boote they use no ores. *Waighmouth*
 " hath certain liberties and privileges, but
 " ther is no Mair [*Mayor*] in it. Ther is a
 " kay and warf for shippes. By this towne
 " on an hille is a chapelle of ease. The
 " paroeh chirch is a mile off. The sea
 " ebbith and flowith up about a two miles
 " beyond *Waymouth*. Ther is a litle bar
 " of sand at the Haven mouth. Ther ren-
 " nith up by the right hond of the Haven a
 " great arme of the sea; and scant a mile
 " or half a mile, or more, above the Haven
 " mouth, on the shore of this arme, is a
 " right goodly and warlike Castle made,
 " having one open barbican*. This arme
 " rennith up farther a mile as in a bay to a
 " point of land, wher a trajectus is into
 " *Portland*, by a long causey of pible and
 " sand."

* *Barbican* or *barbacan*, a cleft or aperture left in the walls to shoot through; also any outward defence against the enemy; a fort at the entrance of a bridge, without the town, having a double wall and towers; probably it is a corrupted term; it is a Moorish word, but we have it from the Spaniards or Italians.

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In the Saxon times it was become a place of some note, for there is a Saxon charter extant, by which King Ethelred gave a certain portion of land in that place, called by the inhabitants *Weymouth* (or *Wick*) near the island of Portland, to his faithful Minister *Aelfere*, to possess it during his life, and leave the inheritance of it at his death to whom he pleased. It was signed by the King, with the sign of the cross; by Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury; Oswald, Archbishop of York; the Bishops of Athelwold, Lyrning, Berold; the Ministers Aethilmer, &c.

Though in Domesday Book there are several parcels surveyed under the common name of *Wai* or *Waia*, and these without additional names to distinguish any of them; yet the salt ponds mentioned in none but this, seem to determine the following survey to belong to this place. "*Aman* held *Wai* of the Earl of Morton. 9 Thains held it freely, T. R. E. and gelded for four hides. There are two mills which yield 32s. 12 salterns, and nine acres of meadow, and nine quarentines of pasture, and was worth 4l."

Leland and Coker observe, that Weymouth and Melcombe Regis rose originally from small beginnings from the conveniency of the harbour, for there was no church in Melcombe till 1605, it having been included in Radipole. In Edward the III^d's reign,

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1347, Weymouth, Melcombe, and Lyme, had orders to send their ships then appointed to Portsmouth, the King being about to sail for Gascony; that Monarch landed here from France, having been five weeks at sea in bad weather, and driven on the coast of Spain. Weymouth furnished that Prince with 20 ships and 264 mariners at the siege of Calais, according to the roll of that fleet in a MS. in the Cotton Library.—Hackluit says 15 ships and 263 mariners. Even that was a quota far beyond any port in this part of the kingdom; for at that time *Pool* sent only four ships and 94 mariners, *Bristol* 22 ships and 608 mariners, *London* 25 ships and 662 mariners.

The French had many times attempted to burn the town, and destroy the inhabitants.

In 1471, 11th Edward III. Queen Margaret of Anjou, Consort of King Henry VI. landed here with her son, Prince Edward, at her return from France, in order to restore her husband to the crown.

In 1505, 20th Henry VII. Jan. 10, Philip, King of Castile, with his Queen, sailed from Middlebourg in Zealand, with 80 ships for Spain; but a storm soon after drove him on the English coast. As this embarkation was kept very secret, their appearance alarmed the country. Sir Thomas Trenchard hearing some strangers had landed at Weymouth, and fearing an invasion, marched hither with
some

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some forces, and was followed by another body under Sir John Carew.

As the storm lasted from the 15th to the 26th of January, the King was so much fatigued as to run into this port, contrary to advice, although he knew how much he ventured by trusting himself in the English dominions. He intended to have refreshed himself, and when he was recovered from his sickness, to put to sea again before the King of England could know of his landing. The two Knights treated him with all possible respect; yet gave him to understand, that he could not return on board till the King had seen him; and he was conducted by Sir Thomas to his seat at Woolveton.

In the same year (1588) one of the Spanish Armada, taken in the channel, was brought in here.

In the civil wars this town (Weymouth) suffered much, being made a garrison, and possessed alternately by the King and Parliament. It generally depended on the fate of Portland, and was frequently taken and retaken.

In 1642 it was garrisoned by the Parliament, as appears by Burie, the Treasurer's account; that in September soldiers and ammunition were sent hither, and in November he paid 50l. towards the fortifications here, and 50l. by order of the Lieutenants to the Mayor for the same use. But Ludlow says;
it

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it was taken by Colonel Ashburnham soon after Brentford battle.

In 1644 when the Earl of Essex, on his march to relieve Lyme, came to Blandford, he had a mind to make himself master of Weymouth. Colonel Ashburnham was then Governor; and, to make room for him, Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper had been the year before removed from that charge.

The Colonel had been intent upon other things, and not enough solicitous to finish the fortifications, which were not strong enough to defy an army, yet too strong to be delivered upon the approach of one. The Governor having afterwards pressed to have the whole examined before a council of war, produced a warrant under the hand of Prince Maurice, that the town being untenable, he should upon the advance of the Earl of Essex, put a sufficient strength into Portland Castle and retire thither, which he had done, and was by the council absolved. But he was thought to have left the town too soon, though he meant to have returned again after he had visited Portland. In the meantime the townsmen mutinied, and sent to the Earl of Essex, then at Dorchester, whereupon he came hither, and gave the garrison leave to march with their arms to Prince Maurice; and leaving men sufficient, out of the country to defend it, prosecuted his march to Lyme.

June

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June 20, (says the Mercurius Aulicus) Col. Ashburnham, knowing that the town, *though of great importance* for the trade of the country, was hardly tenable, gave notice of the same at Oxford, and was ordered to secure all the ordnance, arms, ammunition, and provision; and Portland Castle, as being not only a defensible place, both by art and nature, but having such a command upon Weymouth Haven as would make it utterly unserviceable to the rebels; and as for his men, he should put as many into the Castle as the importance and condition of the place required, marching with the rest to reinforce Prince Maurice.—This being prudently advised, was punctually performed; for it was known that if the rebels put into it a considerable garrison, they would not be able to keep the field; and if they put in none, or a weak and small one, it would be easily retaken.

June 15, the garrison surrendered the town, with all arms, ammunition, ordnance, and ships. The commanders and officers to march to Exeter on horseback with swords and pistols, and the common soldiers with staves only. Here were said to be taken 100 pieces of ordnance great and small; 2000 muskets, 1000 swords, 150 cases of pistols, 200 barrels of powder, and about 60 sail of ships of all sorts in the harbour.

June

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June 19, the Earl of Essex arrived here, when the Earl of Warwick came on shore and consulted with him. Vicars adds, that Sir William Balfour took the town with 27 pieces of ordnance, 50 more in the harbour, and all the ships; 100 barrels of powder, arms and ammunition. The Admiral took 2000 arms more, and 30 or 40 ships. And adds afterwards 80 pieces of ordnance mounted in the town, and in ships; 180 barrels of powder, 2000 muskets, and 60 ships. The towns, forts, and castle at Sandsfoot were also taken.

August 19, Colonel William Sydenham was Governor; and November 20, 900*l.* was paid him by the Treasurer. In October Sir L. Dives had orders from the King, then at Shirborn, on his march out of Cornwall, to recover Weymouth; but this garrison, assisted by the country people, took 100 horse of the Queen's regiment.

In 1645, February 9, Sir Walter Hastings, Governor of Portland, took the great fort here; and two days after Sir L. Dives, Colonel General of Dorset, took the middle fort, surprised the town, and possessed himself of the forts and upper town, the rebels retiring into Melcombe, the lower town, divided from the other by an arm of the sea, and of no considerable strength. At this crisis Lord Goring was sent hither with 3000 horse and 1500 foot, besides what he found in
in

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in these parts, and his artillery; yet, by supine negligence, it was retaken by that contemptible number of the enemy who had been beaten in the lower town, and were looked upon as prisoners at mercy. The loss of it was never enquired into, but imputed to Goring's natural want of vigilance, who retired into Somersetshire. This was done in view of his army after he had been in the town, and the whole direction was in him.

February 24, intelligence came that Col. Sydenham, who kept Melcombe, by the benefit of a fair wind had fired the ships on Weymouth side, burnt part of that town, and regained the Chapel Fort there with 60 prisoners, and taken one Lieutenant-Colonel, one Major, three Captains, three Lieutenants, and 100 men.

February 25, Chapel Fort having been regained, the King's forces resolved to attack that and the town of Melcombe by night, in several places at the same time; but the evening before a prisoner escaped into Melcombe, and gave the Governor notice. The Royalists that night assaulted the line about Melcombe in five or six places, and the fort, with great resolution. Captain Batten came on shore with 100 seamen; the King's men were repulsed in every place, and lost about 150 men, and retreated into Weymouth. Next morning Lord Goring
and

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and Sir L. Dives drew out of Weymouth, and marched to Dorchester, leaving behind them the ordnance taken there, carrying off nothing but the plunder.

Vicars adds further, that the townsmen of Melcombe let in the King's men at their back doors, who came behind the besieged's backs, and forced them to retreat, whilst the King's men were strengthened by some of the town, and Major Francis Sydenham was slain. Batten rallied the besieged, and forced the King's men to retreat, in which action 250 were either slain or drowned; and when they drew off, they left their colours in the forts, with arms, ammunition, and Provisions.

The siege lasted eighteen days; the King's forces were 4000, those of the Parliament 900, who had little hopes of relief, nor were favoured by the townsmen, of whom forty conspired to seize on the fort possessed by Sydenham, and by false keys to the prison doors, to let out the prisoners.

Many of these conspirators were apprehended and hanged.

February 27, a message from Melcombe informed, that the town expected Waller's approach, which had been retarded by a mutiny among his men; that a party of 80 horse sallied out, and routed near 300 of the enemy; took 60 of their cavalry, and at another time 30 more. Cromwell was ordered into the West to join Waller.

March

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March 1, letters from Sydenham and Batten informed, that Goring had spent much time, with 5000 horse and foot, before Melcombe; and the night preceding endeavoured to cast up a work between Melcombe and the sea, but was beaten off.

March 5, an ordinance of Parliament passed for 2000*l*. to be paid to the officers, soldiers, and seamen of Weymouth and Melcombe, for their services.

March 8, intelligence came, that a ship of 26 guns, with arms and ammunition from Rouen, entered the port and was taken, the men thinking the town had been in the King's possession. The seamen belonging to a ship of Weymouth, called the Endeavour, of 12 guns, lying under Portland Castle, laden with salt, &c. cut her cables, and brought her into Weymouth to Batten, tho' the Castle fired several shot at her.

In October a fort was built on Weymouth side to keep in the Portlanders.

July 13, 1647, though the Parliament ordered garrisons to be neglected, yet this was continued; and in December following Colonel James Hean or Hayne was made Governor, upon an establishment of 15*s*. a day as Governor and Captain.

In 1649 the Mayor, Bailiffs, Aldermen, &c. of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in a petition to the Parliament, set forth, that they had a fair and large chapel in Weymouth

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mouth, with two ailes and large galleries, able to contain all the people in both towns, the building whereof cost the town 1500l. and was destroyed in the civil wars; that the bridge was decayed; that it cost 1200l. and they asserted that the harbour was filled with rubbish. They petitioned for 3000l. out of the Customs or Excise, &c. to enlarge Melcombe church, build a new bridge, and cleanse the harbour.

In September, 1651, the Jersey men did much mischief on the Western coast, and on the 17th of October Colonel Hean sailed from this place to reduce that island. The losses sustained by both towns in the civil wars, as appear by a certificate from the Justices, amounted to 20,000l.

Mr. Burie, Treasurer of this county, disbursed for the Parliament to Richard Scovil, Commissary of Weymouth and Portland Garrison, from 1644 to 1647 inclusive, 13,655l. 18s. 3d.

The trade of this town was formerly very considerable to France, Spain, Newfoundland, and Norway. An irrefragable proof of which is clearly pointed out by the quota of ships furnished from this port, as before mentioned, in Edward the III^d's time, and the many charters that have been granted it and confirmed by succeeding Kings.

King Henry I. about the year 1110, granted by charter, sans date, the Manor of
Portland

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Portland and Wike, and the Ports of Weymouth and Melcombe, and all liberties, wreck, and free customs, in sea and land, to the Monks of St. Swithen, in the bishoprick of Winton.

Henry II. confirms by charter, sans date, to the Prior and Monks of the same port of *Waimue*, the whole land of Melcumbe, which by right belongs to their land of Wike, which King Edward gave them, and granted the several liberties, &c.

Lionel, Duke of Clarence, 40 Ed. III. (1367) obtained great liberties for this borough, such as grants of a market and fair. 3 Hen. VII. 1488, the manor was granted to Queen Margaret. 32 Hen. VIII. 1541, the manor before belonging to Queen Jane, was granted to Queen Catherine for life.

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MELCOMBE REGIS.

THIS town which assumes its title of Regis (that is, *King's*) was built upon the demesne lands of the Crown, and has been accounted part of them ever since the time of Edward the First, and is situated opposite the town of Weymouth on the North side of the Haven. It is almost an island, being surrounded by the sea on all sides, except on the North, where it is entered by a narrow neck of land. The streets are broad and well paved. Many of the houses are large, though low, as are most of the houses near the sea; they are of stone, and tiled: many of them having been formerly inhabited by merchants, have large warehouses, it being at that time a place of great foreign trade, which as a sea port has many advantages from its situation, as well as from its security, and from the goodness of the Portland and Weymouth Roads and Harbour.

Mr. Hutchins having had the use of a history of Dorsetshire copied from a MSS. originally written by John Coker, and having extracted from it only a very concise account of Weymouth, the Editor, who has also been obligingly favoured with the use of the same MSS. by the Reverend Mr. Price, Keeper of the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, has copied

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pied the following, which is the whole of what relates to Weymouth or its neighbourhood, verbatim.

“ From Weeke the sea working somewhat
 “ farr into the land, yeldeth a convenient
 “ and safe harbor for shipping, in the mouth
 “ of a small river called Wey, from which
 “ the Haven hath the name of Weymouth.
 “ This brooke, scarce three miles off, break-
 “ eth out at Wey, which it nameth: now
 “ from the situation called Upway, but
 “ more anciently from the owners Wey-
 “ bayouse; for the land it was of Allen de
 “ Bayouse, a baron in King John's tyme,
 “ whose son John, 28 Hen. III. founded a
 “ little chauntry there: but his cozen and
 “ heire, Elias Rabayne, forfeited itt to King
 “ ———. After, in Richard the Second
 “ his tyme, it was purchased by Walter
 “ Frampton's ancestors, and alienated by
 “ his sonne Robert unto John Gould, who
 “ left that to his sonne John, now owner of
 “ itt. The river Wey passing thence names
 “ little villages, and then falls into the sea
 “ at Weymouth, opposite to which, on the
 “ other banke, stands Melcombe, an an-
 “ cient borough, betweene whom and Wey-
 “ mouth arose a great controversy, both
 “ enjoying like privileges, and both chal-
 “ lenging the particular immunities of the
 “ Haven, which lyeth in the very bosom of
 “ them; each of them have taken the over-
 “ throw,

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“ throw of the other, but not resting by that,
 “ continually commenced new suits. Att
 “ length, having wearied the Lords of the
 “ Council and other Courts with their con-
 “ tentious importunities, by the advice of
 “ that wise Counsellor, William Cecill, Lord
 “ Treasurer of England, they were, by an
 “ Act of Parliament, the of Queen Eliza-
 “ beth, incorporated into one bodye, go-
 “ verned by one Mayor, and Aldermen, his
 “ assistants; immediately upon which they
 “ conjoynd themselves together, by that
 “ faire bridge of tymber which we see, yett
 “ still they send either of them two burgeses
 “ to the Parliament.

“ Both these townes have certainly risen
 “ from the conveniency of the harbor, and
 “ from small beginnings; for neither of
 “ them till of late tyme had a parish church.
 “ Weymouth, without all question, is much
 “ the ancients, which may appeare both in
 “ that it had the precedency given in the
 “ name, when by the aforesaid act of unitye,
 “ it was decreed, that it should be called
 “ the towne of Weymouth and Melcombe
 “ Regis, as also that you shall find mention
 “ of it in some ancient records, and that it
 “ was heretofore of very sufficient abillity
 “ well appears, in that they vere able to
 “ assist their then King, Edward III. with
 “ 15 ships and 263 mariners, what time he
 “ prepared to besiege Callice, in France,
 “ which

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“ which rate I assure you no Haven in these
“ parts came neare unto, but they were not
“ to bee blamed to make what strength they
“ could against the French, who, both then
“ and many times sithence, have assayed
“ to burne their towne and destroy their
“ inhabitants.

“ Weymouth, as now it is, is but litle,
“ consisting chiefly of one street, which for
“ a good space lyeth open to the sea, and
“ on the back of it riseth an hill of such
“ steepness, that they are forced to clymbe
“ upp to their chappell by eighty stepps of
“ stone, from whence you have a faire prof-
“ pect of the towne and Haven lying under
“ itt. From the one side you may see Weeke,
“ the mother church of Weymouth, and
“ Melcombe on the other side, which much
“ surpasseth the other for conveniency of
“ seite, ffor this standing on a flat, affordeth
“ roome for building, with a markett place,
“ and convenient streets and also yardenes for
“ their wares, by means whereof most of
“ the merchants have chosen this for their
“ habitation, which of late years is fairly
“ new built; there anciently was placed the
“ wool staple, but King Henry VIth took
“ it from them, and gave itt to Poole, when
“ he granted to itt the priviledges of an
“ Haven. These townes, now united, gaine
“ well by traffique into Newfoundland,
“ where they have had eighty sayle of

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“ ships and barks, as also by a nearer
“ cutt into France opposite to them, whence
“ they return laden with wines, cloath, and
“ divers other usefull commodities, with
“ which they furnish the country.

“ Over against this Haven lyeth the isle
“ of Portland, by sea a league distant from
“ itt, passable but in one place (as I have
“ already noted) on dry land. Concerning
“ the name controversy hath risen, some
“ thinking it tooke name by reason of the
“ seite opposite to the Port of Weymouth,
“ which opinion I cannot but resist, for that
“ I believe it had to name PORTLAND before
“ the other had any being; and therefore I
“ will content myself with the opinion of
“ the judicious Camden, who voucheth for
“ it. The history of Winchester church,
“ which is, that it took its name from one
“ Port, a noble Saxon, who in the yeare of
“ our salvation , arriving there, much
“ infested and anoyed these coasts; after, in
“ the declining age of the Saxons Empire,
“ Portland felt often the violent and furious
“ rage of the Danes, who when they came
“ as , anno 783, to discover the
“ goodness of the land, and good places for
“ landing, as also what resistance the inha-
“ bitants could make; having then but
“ onely three ships in their company,
“ touched first of all at this island, whence
“ either for want of good landing, which is
“ most

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“ most likely, for there is none, or being
 “ driven away by the inhabitants, they re-
 “ tired to Tinmouth in Devonshire, where
 “ they sette the firste foote on England’s
 “ ground, with soe good standing, that al-
 “ beit they were divers tymes overthrow
 “ and chased away ; they never desisted until
 “ their King Canutus, anno 1017, gott the
 “ crowne upon his head ; afterwards King
 “ Edward the Confessor, gave Portland unto
 “ the church of Winchester upon this occa-
 “ sion. The King taking dislike against his
 “ mother EMMA, by the instigation of his
 “ great favourites, Robert, Archbishop of
 “ Canterbury, and Goodwyne, Earle of
 “ Kent, amongst divers other objections,
 “ alledged that she, under colour of private
 “ devotion, used over-familiarly the com-
 “ pany of Alwin, Bishop of Winchester, to
 “ the King’s and her owne great dishonour :
 “ upon these surmises was also her substance
 “ seized to the King’s use, and her bodye
 “ committed to safe custody in the abbey
 “ of Wherwell ; but she knowing her inno-
 “ cency in all, especially in the accusation
 “ of incontineny, refused not to undergo
 “ that hard law or triall by fire, called Or-
 “ dæleii, which was thus : she, in the pre-
 “ sence of the King, her sonne, and divers
 “ other nobles, being blindfolded, was to
 “ pass over nine plough shores redd hott,
 “ which she in the church of Winchester,

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“ (with whose prelate she was suspected)
 “ performed without any the least harme,
 “ wherebye she not only cleared herselfe of
 “ that imputation, but made her chastity
 “ more famous to posteritye; and in remem-
 “ brance of this her deliverance, she gave
 “ to the same church nine mannors, equal
 “ in number to those irons she passed over;
 “ also her sonne, King Edward, much re-
 “ penting of the wrongs he had done his
 “ mother by false suspicion, gave, for ex-
 “ piation of his fault, unto the same church,
 “ this island, with Weeke and Weymouth
 “ appurtayning unto itt; all which Gilbert
 “ de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, gott from
 “ the Monks by way of Exchange in Edward
 “ the First his time, from whose posterity it
 “ came to the Crowne. Having given you
 “ what I have found in ancient histories of
 “ this island, I think it not amiss to shew
 “ you itt as at this present itt is.

“ First, att the very landing you shall see
 “ a strong castle built by King Henry VIII,
 “ oposite almost unto another on the land's
 “ side called Sandfoot Castle; these two
 “ command all the shippes which passe into
 “ this road, for between them they must
 “ passe, who if upon summons hayle not,
 “ they presently sinke, for by reason of their
 “ low situation, they take them between
 “ wind and water and bespoile them. From
 “ Portland Castle you have but one easie
 “ passage

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“ passage to the topp of the island amongst
“ rocks, with which it is wholly invironed,
“ and all places inaccessible but this onely,
“ and itt is soe ill, that you can with noe
“ great safety ride either upp or downe.
“ On the topp you may see the whole island
“ lying very flatt, in compass about seven
“ miles; the ground very good for corne,
“ and indifferent pasture; but soe destitute
“ for wood and fewill, that the inhabitants
“ are glad to burne their cow dung, being
“ first dryed against stone walls, with which
“ their grounds are alltogether inclosed.

“ On the South point stands the onely
“ church, soe near the sea, that for safety
“ of itt, they have been forced to wall the
“ church yard bankes, almost of an incre-
“ dible height, soe that itt even affrights
“ one to looke downe into the sea. From
“ thence you may see the Race of Portland,
“ as itt is called, which is the meeting of
“ the two tydes with soe great striving and
“ beating of the waves, that it is most dan-
“ gerous for any barke to pass over itt,
“ though in the calmest season. Neare the
“ church, but at least fifty steps of stone
“ above itt, stand the walls of the old
“ castle, for seite before the invention of
“ ordnance, in man's judgement impregna-
“ ble, yet was it both forced and won by
“ Robert Earle of Gloucester, bare brother
“ to Maude the Empreffe, and in her be-
“ halfe,

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“ halfe, what tyme she waged warr with
 “ King Stephen for her right. Att this
 “ place, in the year 1588, the Spanyards,
 “ with their supposed invincible army,
 “ strived to land, but being prevented by
 “ the English, between them there begann,
 “ in the sight of all the coast, such a fight,
 “ that they were forced to acknowledge
 “ their army vincible, and to shift for them-
 “ selves, though many hundreds of them
 “ came short home, and two of their great
 “ shippes with a Don brought into Wey-
 “ mouth. To conclude, Portland is not
 “ destitute of fresh water; hath plenty of
 “ corne, sheep, and cattle; also such ex-
 “ cellent quarries of stone, that for the so-
 “ lidness and durableness it is transported
 “ unto London, and that in great plenty,
 “ sithence it pleased the King, anno 1610,
 “ by the advice of his architect, to make
 “ choice of Portland stone, for the re-ed-
 “ fying of his banqueting house att White-
 “ hall. The inhabitants were in their fore-
 “ going ages much noted for their dexte-
 “ ritye in slinging. Their hold (as they call
 “ it) is gavelkind, a tenure seldom found in
 “ these western parts; the customs and im-
 “ munities of it, if you desire to know, I
 “ referr you to William Lambert. But
 “ now, I thinke, its tyme to take boate and
 “ passe to the other shoar, which lyeth
 “ straight East, until it comes to the isle of
 “ Parbeeke,

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“ Parbeeke, and in the way biddeth fare-
“ well to these places.”

In Edward the Third's reign, about 1350, Melcombe flourished greatly; and it was agreed in Parliament, that a staple should be kept in Melcombe, when it was by Act of Parliament appointed a staple town.

Leland says, “ Here (at Uphill) I came
“ into the way that ledith from Dorchester
“ to Weymouth, three good miles distance
“ from this place, by al the which way I
“ rode as yn a base level ground. Dor-
“ chester is eight miles from Weymouth.
“ There is a townlet on the hither side of
“ the Haven of Weymouth, caullid Mil-
“ toun, being privileged and having a Mair:
“ this town, as is evidently seene, hath been
“ far bigger than it is now. The cause of
“ this is layid onto the Frenchmen, that yn
“ times of war rasid this town for lak of
“ defence. For so many houses as be yn
“ the towne they be welle and strongly
“ builded of stone. Ther is a chapelle of
“ ease in Milton. The paroch chirch is a
“ mile of, a manifest token that Milton is
“ no very old town. Ther was a fair house
“ of Freres in the Est part of the towne,
“ and the chief House of the Rogers in
“ Dorsetshire was Founder and Patron of it,
“ Milton stondith as a peninsula, by reason
“ of the water of the Haven, that a little
“ above the towne spreddith abroad, and
“ makith

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“ makith a bay ; and by the bay of the
“ mayne fea, that gulfith in on the other
“ fide.”

13 Eliz. 1571. The Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesſes, and Commonalties of both towns, represented, that for thirty-five years then laſt paſt, great controverſies had ariſen between the inhabitants of both Boroughs, concerning the right to the profits of the Haven running between both, and ſeveral privileges in the ſame ; the hearing of which has cauſed much trouble to the Queen and her progenitors and Privy Council, and great decay and impoveriſhment to the towns. The Lords of the Council having required them, becauſe it was hard to be underſtood in whom the right was, to agree that the ſaid Boroughs might be made one Corporation. To prevent further diſputes, it was reſolved, that the towns, by Act of Parliament, be united into one Borough, and incorporated by the only name of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgeſſes, and Commonalty of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, and to be reputed only one borough and town ; that the Mayor, &c. be capable of purchaſing lands, &c. have a ſeal of office, and a common ſeal ; elect a Recorder ; that the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Recorder ſhall be Juſtices of Peace in the ſaid towns ; that the Mayor ſhall be chief officer of the ſaid towns ; Bernar Maior, one of the Burgeſſes, to be firſt Mayor ;
Thomas

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Thomas Samways and Hugh Randall, the first Bailiffs; six Burgeffes shall be chosen Aldermen from time to time, by the Mayor, &c. or major part, and be assistants to the Mayor; that the Mayor, when out of Office, shall be an Alderman for life; that twenty-four Burgeffes be chosen by the Mayor, &c. which shall be a Common Council to assist the Mayor; the Mayor, &c. to have power to make bye laws, and the town to enjoy all Leets, Law Days, Liberties, Fairs, Markets, Lands, &c. which the said several towns had before they were united together, as in right of their several Corporations they used, by reason of any charter granted to them, or any Lords of the said towns, or Burgeffes thereof; the Mayor, &c. to levy and enjoy to the use of the town all the petty customs, profits, &c. as the said towns, or either of them, before their Incorporation, or any Lord of them lawfully enjoyed.

Queen Elizabeth also, by letters patent, in 1598, reciting the preamble and the three last clauses of the former act, shews that the inhabitants of Weymouth had long before the making of that act, and the Mayor, &c. have since enjoyed to their proper use several rents of assize, amounting to 14l. 7s. 5d. issuing out of lands, &c. in both towns, and a new rent of 10s. issuing out of a messuage therein, due to the Crown, and the profits of the water and port 40s. per annum, paying

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paying yearly 16l. 8s. 3d. to which rents it does not appear they had any title, but are saved by the said act, and might be seized into the King's hands. Her Majesty, because these united towns were a port and frontier town, and for *the better maintenance of the bridge*, late, at the cost of the inhabitants new erected, granted them the premises, and all the water running there, and the ground usually covered with the same, and the fisheries and profits thereof; and all Court Leets, Houses, Lands, &c. which they had to their proper use, &c. And that the Mayor, &c. enjoy within the town and limits of it, and the water and port, the same Court Leets, Fairs, Markets, Customs, &c. which the late several towns before united, in right of their several Corporations, or Lords of those towns have lawfully used, by reason of any grant, &c. prescription, or custom.

King James I. by charter in 1616, recites, that whereas our boroughs or towns of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in our county of Dorset, being great and famous ports, and boroughs or towns, ancient, populous, and of great strength and force to withstand the enemies as well of us, as of our kingdom, and to defend the country there adjoining; and also occupying and exercising merchandizing, and having much business in and upon the seas, by reason of which ports a great number of mariners and others, instructed

instructed and exercised in the art of navigation, are there continually employed, nourished, and brought up, who are daily made and are able and fit for all works and service for ships and the seas, and otherwise for the defence of our realm, and also of great customs, duties, and sums of money, from thence unto us continually do also grow and arise, &c. &c. And that Queen Elizabeth having united these towns; and the Mayor, &c. being at great expence in fortifying and defending these towns, and maintaining a bridge lately built at the cost of the inhabitants; and defects and ambiguities having been found in the Act of Parliament, constitutes the said boroughs to be a free borough and town, one body corporate and politick, by the name of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgeffes, and Commonalty of the borough and town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, and to be capable to purchase and possess lands, &c. in fee, &c. to plead and be impleaded in any court; to have a common seal, and alter it; the Mayor, &c. to make laws, and impose penalties and fines on offenders, to the use of the Mayor, &c. names the first Mayor, first Recorder, first Bailiffs, and nineteen of the first Aldermen.

14 Car. I. a *Quo Warranto* was brought against the town, Sir John Banks being Attorney General, when the Charters and Act of Union were pleaded; and all ancient rights,

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rights, customs, &c. were confirmed; of all which an exemplification under the seal of the Exchequer, 12 Feb. 14 Car. I. is amongst the town records.

A question arising about the legality of the election of a Mayor in 1740, occasioned the Charter of King James the First to be canvassed in the law courts. A *Quo Warranto* had been brought against John Tucker, the Mayor, and issue being joined upon eight facts, they were all determined in his favour by a special jury, at the assizes at Dorchester; but Mr. Tucker alledging a bye law of the Corporation, whereby they had a power to elect an Alderman Mayor, the Court of King's Bench determined against him, that though a Mayor on quitting his office became an Alderman, they were not at liberty to choose an Alderman Mayor; the Charter requiring, that the Mayor should be chosen out of the Burgeffes. This determination was confirmed by the House of Lords*; and in 1747 an Explanatory Charter passed the Seals, of which the following is an exact copy:

* A full account of these proceedings may be seen in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1744, vol. xiv. p. 127, 175; and in the second Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the Conduct of Sir Robert Walpole, 1748.—

See also Political Disquisitions, 3 vol. 8vo.

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WEYMOUTH EXPLANATORY CHARTER.

GEORGE the Second by the Grace of God and so forth. To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: WHEREAS our trusty and well-beloved the Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs, Burgeses, and Commonalty of our Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, have by their Petition humbly represented unto Us, (amongst other things therein contained) That the said Borough and Town was incorporated by a Charter granted by our Royal Predecessor King James the First, bearing date the First Day of July, in the Fourteenth Year of his Reign, by the name of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs, Burgeses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, which Charter was accepted and has been acted under ever since; that his said Majesty King James the First, by his said Charter was pleased to ordain and direct, that from thenceforth for ever there should be within the said Borough and Town one of the Burgeses or inhabitants of the said town who should be and be called Mayor, and also divers men of the said Borough and Town who should be and be called Aldermen of the said Borough and Town, and also two other men of the said Borough and Town who should be and be called Bayliffs of the said Borough and town, and also four-and-twenty other men who should be and be called capital and principal Burgeses of the said Borough and Town; and did also thereby constitute and appoint the first Mayor, eleven Aldermen, two Bayliffs, and four-and-twenty principal Burgeses by name who should be the first in the said respective offices under the said Charter; and for their succession and filling up vacancies therein respectively as they should happen, his said Majesty was pleased to ordain and direct by the same Charter, that the Mayor and Aldermen of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or the major part of them from time to time at all times thereafter might and should have the sole and full power and authority of electing and naming, and

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that

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that they might and should elect and name yearly and every year for ever in the Guildhall of the said Borough and Town, or within any other convenient place within the said Borough and Town, being met together and assembled on the Feast or day of St. Matthew the Apostle, four of the Burgeses or inhabitants of the said Borough and Town, out of which four so to be named and chosen, the Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs, principal Burgeses and other Burgeses and inhabitants of the said Borough and Town for the time being (being also there on the same day met together and assembled for that purpose) might and should have full power and authority by the majority of the votes of them being so met together to elect and prefer one to be Mayor of the said Borough and Town; and that his said Majesty did further grant by the said Charter, That the Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs, and principal Burgeses of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or the major part of them from time to time and at all times thereafter might and should have the power and authority of electing and naming, and that they might and should elect and name, being met together and assembled in the Guildhall of the Borough and Town aforesaid, upon the said Feast or day of St. Matthew the Apostle every year for ever, two of the Burgeses or inhabitants of the said Borough and Town to be Bailiffs of the said Borough and Town; and further, that if it should happen that the Aldermen of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or any one or more of them, should at any time for the future die, or be removed from their office, or depart (which said Alderman or any or either of them for misbehaviour, or any other reasonable cause, his said late Majesty willed should be amoveable by the Mayor and the rest of the Aldermen, Bayliffs, and principal Burgeses of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or the major part of them); and at the time of the death, amotion, or departure of such Alderman or Aldermen, there should not be eight Aldermen surviving and remaining, that then and so often it should and might be lawful for the Mayor and the surviving and remaining Aldermen, and also for the Bayliffs and principal Burgeses of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or for the major part of them,

them, being met together in the Guildhall of the said town for that purpose, to elect and prefer so many as should be wanting of the said number of eight Aldermen out of the Burgesses or inhabitants of the said Borough and town, to be an Alderman or Aldermen of the said Borough and town; and the Petitioners further humbly represent to Us, that they apprehended that by the said Charter an Alderman and also a capital or principal Burgess of the said Borough (if inhabitants) were capable of being nominated and elected Mayor or Bayliffs of the same as well as any other inhabitant or Burgess thereof, but that they find they and their predecessors have been under a mistake and misapprehension with respect to their construction and sense of the said Charter of King James in relation to the nomination and election of a Mayor and also Bayliffs of the said Borough, it having been lately determined by a judgement in our Court of King's Bench, and affirmed in Parliament in an information in the nature of a Quo Warranto against Richard Tucker, Esq; to shew by what authority he claimed to be Mayor of the said Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, that an Alderman of the said Borough and Town, although an inhabitant or Burgess, is not capable of being nominated or elected a Mayor of the said Borough and Town, and therefore judgement of Ouster was given against the said Richard Tucker, by reason that he was an Alderman at the time he was nominated and elected Mayor; and the Petitioners further humbly represent unto Us, that by the construction put upon the words of the said Charter by the said judgement in relation to the incapacity of an Alderman's being put upon nomination and of being elected Mayor of the said Borough and Town, the same will, as they humbly apprehend from a parity of reason and construction, extend in like manner to the election of Bayliffs, and doth render an Alderman or principal Burgess of the said Borough and Town, although an inhabitant or Burgess, also incapable of being elected a Bayliff of the said Borough and Town; and the same construction doth also render a principal Burgess of the said Borough and Town, although an inhabitant or Burgess, incapable of being nominated or elected either a Mayor or an Alderman, or one

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of the Bayliffs of the said Borough and Town; and that this construction of the said Charter already appears greatly inconvenient to the Petitioners and to the said Borough and Town in several instances, and for several reasons the Petitioners therefore having most humbly prayed, that we would be graciously pleased in consideration of the premisses to extend our Royal favour to the said Town and Borough, and to grant unto the said Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs, Burgeffes, and Commonalty thereof, a new Grant or Charter, to explain their said Charter or Letters Patent so granted to them by our late Royal Predecessor King James the First, whereby the Aldermen of our said Borough and Town, being inhabitants and Burgeffes thereof, may be rendered capable of being nominated and elected to the offices of Mayor and Bayliffs of the said Borough and Town, and the principal Burgeffes of the said Borough and Town, being inhabitants and Burgeffes thereof, be rendered capable of being nominated and elected to the several offices of Mayor, Aldermen, and Bayliffs of the said Borough and Town, and also to confirm the said Charter or Letters Patent so as aforesaid granted by our said Royal Predecessor King James the First in all other respects as we should think fit. We taking the premisses into our Royal consideration and for remedy of the inconvenience complained of in the said Petition, and of the defect in the said recited Letters Patent, and for the explanation of the same, are graciously pleased to condescend to their request:

KNOW YE therefore, That We of our especial grace, certain knowledge, and meer motion, have granted, ordained, and appointed, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do will, grant, ordain, and appoint, that the Aldermen for the time being, of our Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, shall and may be capable for ever hereafter, of being, and shall and may be nominated for and elected to and hold the respective offices of Mayor and Bayliffs of the said Borough and Town both at the annual elections and on every vacancy that shall happen by death, amotion, or other determination of such offices in the manner prescribed by the said recited Letters Patent for the election
of

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of a Mayor and Bayliffs of the said Borough and Town; and that the capital and principal Burgeses of the said Borough and Town shall and may be capable of being, and shall and may be nominated for and elected to and hold the several and respective offices of Mayor, Aldermen, and Bayliffs of the said Borough and Town; and our further will and pleasure is, and we do by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, grant and ordain, that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bayliffs, Burgeses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the said County of Dorset, and their successors, shall, and may have, hold, use, and enjoy for ever hereafter all liberties, authorities, jurisdictions, franchises, and privileges granted by the said recited Letters Patent of King James the First, not altered in and by these presents; and lastly, We do by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, grant unto the said Borough and Town and their successors, that these our Letters Patent, or the inrollment, or exemplification thereof, shall be in and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectual in the law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, notwithstanding the not truly, or not fully reciting the said Letters Patent, or the date thereof, or any other omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause, or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. In witness, &c. the nineteenth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and forty-seven.

By Writ of Privy Seal.

This is a true copy from the original Record remaining in the Chapel of the Rolls; having been examined. Signed

JOHN KIPLING,

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THE following extract from the memoirs of Dodington (Lord Melcombe) lately published, will afford entertainment to the curious, and will serve to explain the motives which induced him to endeavour to obtain the preceding Explanatory Charter.—Dodington's Memoirs, p. 84. Nov. 18, 1750.

“ Mr. Tucker and I went to Mr. Scrope's,
 “ to desire him to acquaint Mr. Pelham,
 “ that, as we supposed, when he engaged
 “ for the Charter at Weymouth, he under-
 “ stood that he was to have two friends
 “ there during this Parliament, though no
 “ such conditions were actually expressed,
 “ yet if Mr. Plummer should die (who was
 “ that day cut for the stone) we were too
 “ nice upon points of honor to take the ad-
 “ vantage of what might be implied, though
 “ not specified, and therefore we would
 “ chuse any unexceptionable gentleman he
 “ should name; but we would not chuse
 “ any other, or one, who, by his relations
 “ or situation, might seem to be put there
 “ with a view to make a separate interest.
 “ And we should consider the insisting upon
 “ such a one as a premeditated design to
 “ make war, which, when we were in the
 “ right, we were ready to begin as soon as
 “ he pleased.

“ Dec. 11. Mr. Tucker and I met Mr.
 “ Pelham at Mr. Scrope's by appointment;
 “ we

“ we fettled the Weymouth re-election, according to the agreement made, on obtaining the new Charter, and he recommended Lord George Cavendish.”

[See also in the same Memoirs, pages 131 to 142; and pages 273, 274, 282, 294, 295, 315, and 415.]

The number of Aldermen is not to be less than eight. The Mayor and other Members of the Corporation are chosen promiscuously out of both towns.

The 34th of Eliz. 1592, Robert Cook, Clarencieux, granted the following arms to the united Boroughs at the request of the Mayor and Aldermen, agreeable to the arms and seals heretofore used by the several towns before they were united, beyond the memory of man. Az. a ship with three tops, tackled and rigged O. upon the waves of the sea proper; upon the first and last mast two square banners, on the first per pale G. and vert, two lions passant guardant in pale O. on the second quarterly A. and G. in the first a lion rampant purple, in the second a castle O; upon the hull of the said ship an escutcheon per fess O. and G. in the first three chevrons of the second, on the second three lions passant guardant of the first; and for their common seal Az. a bridge, double embattled A. with three arches standing in the sea proper; in chief an escutcheon per fess O. and G. in

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the first three chevrons G. in chief; on the second, in base, three lions passant guardant in pale O.

Captain Richard Clark, a famous seaman and pilot, was born here. He accompanied Sir Humphrey Gilbert in his voyage for the discovery of Norembeguain in 1583, and was shipwrecked, but with fourteen more was wonderfully saved.

In Sept. 1673, 13th Car. II. a fire happened at Weymouth, which did considerable damage; at which his Majesty Charles II. was present, and a brief granted for collecting three thousand pounds.

Sir James Thornhill, Knight, was born here 1675; he was knighted and made History Painter to the King in 1720, and died in 1734. In Melcombe church is a large and noble altar piece, representing the last Supper, executed and given by Sir James, for the which he had been offered seven hundred pounds.

Weymouth gave title to Thomas Thynne of Long-leat, in the County of Wilts, son of Sir Frederick Thynne. He was created Baron Warminster and Viscount Weymouth the 11th of December 1682; which is now enjoyed by Thomas Viscount Weymouth.

Here was formerly a chapel of ease (a conveniency at present much wanted) to the mother church of Wike Regis, above a mile distant. It stood South of the town on
a hill

a hill, overlooking the town and haven: the ascent to it was by seventy stone steps. This situation occasioned the rebels, in the late civil wars, to convert it into a fort, for reducing Melcombe; after which they demolished it, and sold the materials. It was dedicated to St. Nicholas, the common tutelary saint of maritime churches: there are now no remains of it but the scite, which is still called *Chapel Hayes*, and the bounds marked out by four stones.

The return to the Commission, in 1650, was, That Weymouth is in the parish of Wike Regis, and distant a mile from it: that nothing ariseth thence to the incumbent of Wike but the annual tithes of some gardens, amounting to 40s. The rectory of Wike lately belonged to Dr. Hinchman, and is worth 150 l. per annum; but now to Mr. Edward Buckler, by order of the committee, That the inhabitants of Weymouth come to Melcombe church; and Weymouth being a garrison and port town, it is not safe for the people to go so far out of the town to church: That in Weymouth is a chapel of ease, which was wont to be supplied by the minister of Wike at pleasure; but in the siege a great part of it was beaten down, and the repairs of it will cost a great many hundred pounds: It is now used altogether as a fort and guard, there being works, a line, and platform about it. The inhabitants of Weymouth petition
the

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the Parliament that it may be made their parish church, and that Government would allow a competent maintenance for a minister; the chapel being fit to be taken from Wike, and made the parish church of Weymouth, in case the State will rebuild the chapel, or erect some church there, and allow a competent maintenance for a minister in Weymouth: or, that Weymouth and Melcombe may be united, and the church of Melcome enlarged, which will cost some hundred pounds. The church-yard in Melcombe being very small for a burial place, the ground and buildings called the Friery lying ruined, and near adjoining to the church, may be made a burial place for both towns, in case the Lord Arundel, and Richard Usedale, Esq. who lay claim to it, will consent.

This priory stood a little East of the church in Maiden Street: it was a house of Dominican Friars, dedicated to St. Winifrid, says Mr. Willis; to St. Dominick, according to Speed. Leland says it was a fair house of Freres, founded by the chief house of the Rogers's, in this county. The whole makes a square of about an Acre, and has lately undergone much alteration, and been parceled out into many tenements. In the garden are some remains of old buildings; on the South side is the chapel belonging to the priory, now converted into a malthouse; over the
West

West door are three blank escutcheons, supported by a lion and wyvern, and on it for a crest a lion passant guardant. On the North side many bones and skulls were dug up in 1682, and since that time, so that probably this was the burial place. In the 15th century, Owen Watson, Rector of Portland, willed his body "to be buried at the Friars Preachers here, where he had built a tomb."

By a certificate of the commissary of the Bishop of Sarum, concerning the Friars at Melcombe, he censures an altar raised in this town, and orders an enquiry into the names of the persons who celebrated at it, and of those who favoured them. He afterwards issued a mandate to Edward Poliny, John Lok, and John Lowyn, Dominican Friars, who had erected and celebrated on an altar there, declared them contumacious, and prohibited their proceedings: this was in 1426.—Afterwards

John Rogers, and Hugh Deverel, Esqrs. petitioned the Bishop of Sarum, That moved by the desolation of this vill, they had begun a house for the habitation of the Friars Preachers, and certify,

First,—The intention of this work.

Secondly,—The fitness of the place to be dedicated for a church.

Thirdly,—Its endowment.

Fourthly,—The apostolic and royal licence for beginning the foundation.

Fifthly,

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Fifthly, — They enquire whether such house may be built without diminution of the Bishop's jurisdiction, and the right of the parochial church. They set forth, that there was no place dedicated to God in Melcombe: that the parochial church of Radipole was a long mile and a half from this vill, and was inconvenient for the burgeses to go to, &c. &c.

Neville was Bishop of Sarum from 1427 to 1438; and Bishop Tanner refers to patents in 1430 and 1446 concerning this house.

Near the Priory is an old building, which tradition says was a Nunnery; but there are no records concerning it that have come to the knowledge of any historian.

The MANOR of MELCOMBE is mentioned in two records, of which Mr. Hutchings, in his history of Dorset, suspects the correctness, and which give the highest antiquity to this place.

Henry the First, (about 1110) grants to the Prior and Monks of St. Swithin's, Winton, peaceably to hold the port of Melcombe, with all liberties, wrecks, and free customs, by land and sea, as they had holden them, sans date. Henry the Second, (about 1160) grants to the same the land of Melcombe, belonging to Wick, which King Edward gave them, with the aforesaid liberties, sans date.

In Edward the First's time, (1280) it belonged to the Abbey of *Cerne*, but when, or by whom given, is not known,

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The 8th of Edward I. (about 1280) the Abbot certified his claim of a Tuesday Market, and a Fair on the eve and day of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, by Charter of Henry III. and wreck of the sea in his Manor of Melcombe; and that he claimed one penny from the men that inhabited the tithing, beyond the memory of man.

The BOROUGH of MELCOMBE first obtained that privilege about the 8th of Edward the First, 1280, when that King, by Charter, granted to the Burgeffes of Melcombe several liberties claimed by the city of London, viz. That they should not be impleaded without the Borough; and granted them permission to have a Market every Monday, and a Fair every Year, to begin on St. Botolph, the Abbots Even, (the 17th of June) and so to continue five days, *free come and free abide* for all manner of men.

In the reign of Edward III. (1330) this Borough flourished greatly; but in the next reign it was much impoverished and desolated, being burnt by the French; on which the inhabitants prayed for a discharge of their customs, which was granted and confirmed the 1st of Henry IV.

King Edward IV, (in 1463) having inspected the Charters of Edward I. II. and III. gave them another, by which he grants them all manner of usages and customs granted unto the citizens of London; with
power

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power to make a coroner, an escheator, and other officers, &c. &c.

It must not be omitted, that in 1455, the 32d of Henry VI. James Butler, Earl of Wilts, had license to go to St. James's, in Spain, with thirty persons in his retinue, in a ship called the St. James of Weymouth, not carrying gold or silver beyond his necessary charges. And in Rymer's *Fœdera*, tom. IX, X, and XI, are instances of licenses granted in the times of Henry V. and VI. to masters of vessels here, to carry over strangers, being the King's subjects, sometimes to the number of an hundred and twenty, going on pilgrimages thither; and sometimes they were not allowed to carry gold or silver coined, or in the ore.

Melcombe gave the title of Baron to the Honourable George Bubb Doddington, Esq. of Eastbury, several times one of the Representatives for this borough. He was created Baron Melcombe the 1st of George III. 1761, but dying without issue in 1762, the title became extinct.

The arms of Melcombe, before the union of the two boroughs, were part of the arms of the Kings of England, its ancient Lords, viz. O. three lions passant guardant Az.

Weymouth has sent Members to Parliament ever since the 12th of Edward II, and Melcombe ever since the 8th of the same King: and now, as one Borough, enjoys a privilege

privilege allowed to no other place in the kingdom, except *London*, that of sending four Members to Parliament. The Representatives are elected by Freeholders in Weymouth or Melcombe, whether inhabitants or otherwise. Every Elector has the privilege as in *London* of polling for four Candidates, who, when chosen, are returned in two indentures; the first under the title of Burgeſſes of Weymouth; and the two others under that of Melcombe, which is the place of Election. The Mayor is the returning officer.

In the 11th year of his preſent Maſteſty an act was obtained for making a turnpike road from *Dorcheſter* through Weymouth (over the old bridge) to *Portland Sands*, *Chickerell*, *Ofmington*, and *Winterbourne*, thro' *Upway*; and in 1782 another act paſſed for taking in the road from *Ofmington* to *Warmwell*, and renewing the former act.

In the year 1776 an act was likewise obtained for lighting, watching, and paving the ſtreets, foot-paths, and other places within the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis; and for removing encroachments and ſtraw thatch from Buildings of every denomination.

Weymouth Caſtle, called alſo *Sandes Foot*, or *Sandes Fort*, ſtands a miles S. W. of the town, on a high cliff, almoſt oppoſite *Portland Caſtle*, and commands the Bay. It was built by King Henry VIII. Leland calls it

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“ a right goodly and warlyke castle, having
 “ one open barbican.” Its form is a paral-
 lelogram, or long square, and was faced with
 square stone, now all carried away. At the
 north end was a town, on which were the
 arms of England, supported by a wyvern
 and unicorn : the north part seems to have
 been the Governor’s apartment, which is all
 vaulted ; the south front is semicircular, and
 said to have been the gun room : before it,
 on the south, was formerly a platform for
 cannon. On the east is the remains of a
 small gate, and a deep trench surrounds the
 whole, except on the south : the walls were
 thick and lofty when entire ; and though it
 was not large, must have been a beautiful
 structure. It seems to have been neglected
 since the Restoration.—In 1631, George
 Bamfield had a grant of the office of Custos
 [i. e. Guardian] of Sandsfoot Castle, during
 pleasure : and in 1640, Nathaniel Speccot,
 Knight, was made Custos for life. After the
 restoration, Humphrey Weld, of Lulworth
 Castle, was Governor for many years.

Here were several forts in and about the
 town and harbour, to defend them against
 foreign enemies ; and several were raised
 during the civil wars.

The Chapel, as we have before observed,
 was converted into a fort. New Fort, or
 Jetty Fort, at the entrance of the harbour,
 at the end of the old pier, at the foot of the
 hill, was taken down in 1661 : south of this,
 on

on the top of the hill, (now known by the name of the Nose,) at the Eastern point of it, was another called North Fort, where are still three guns mounted : Dock Fort under the hill, is West of the two Jettys, near the bar. There was a fifth fort at the look-out, on the hill South of the town, where are still two guns.

Towards the West end of Weymouth is the Town-Hall, where the Representatives of this town are carried, after having been elected at Melcombe.

The communication between both towns was anciently by a ferry-boat, and a rope reaching across the haven ; but a wooden bridge of seventeen arches was built in 1597.

The principal benefactors towards building it were certain citizens of London : having been much damaged in the civil wars, it seems to have been re-built ; this also going to decay, was again re-built at the charge of the Representatives in 1712, and once more in 1741 : it was sixty yards long ; in the middle is a draw-bridge for vessels to pass into the western part of the harbour. This bridge was also re-built in 1770, seventy yards west of the former, to the great inconvenience of the inhabitants of Weymouth, and directly contrary to their wishes, a petition having been presented by the inhabitants, praying it might be continued in the old situation.

D

This

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This was formerly (as may very readily be traced from what has been said) the most considerable sea port in the county till the increase of Poole; and the late wars with France. The haven, which is both safe and commodious, is formed by an arm of the sea, that runs betwixt both towns, and at the West end receives the small river *Way*, and extends a mile West of the [old] bridge.

Here is a Custom-house, with a Collector, Comptroller, and other inferior officers; and in 1759 here were eighty vessels belonging to this port. There is good anchoring in Weymouth Road: the ships lie close to the Quays on both sides of the town, where they are aground every tide.

A South South East wind, with a New Moon, or the Moon at Full, makes the highest tides here.

In 1669, Sept. 19th, was a very high tide, a circumstance somewhat extraordinary, the weather being calm, and the wind at North East, which till then never contributed to encrease the tides: and August 19th, 1763, the sea rose here ten feet perpendicular, and retired instantly; as it did at Plymouth the same day.

The Island of Jersey lies twenty-six leagues South of Portland: Guernsey is distant twenty leagues South and by West; and Alderney is eighteen leagues distant South South East.

What

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What the celebrated Dr. Arbuthnot said of Dorchester, when he, in his early days, came there, with a view to settle, might more justly be applied to Weymouth; that a Physician could neither live nor die there. Indeed, so pure, mild, and soft is the air of this place, that it stands justly recommended as the Mountpelier of England: nor can any stronger or better proof be adduced of the mildness of the climate, than that here both the large and small leaved myrtles stand out all the winter without shelter, and against many of the houses grow up to the chamber windows, and blow twice in the year in a most beautiful style; and all kinds of Geraniums also flourish luxuriantly at this place, with very little care; and, what is somewhat remarkable, a leaf will vegetate.

The Markets are very much improved of late years, and are well supplied with the choicest Fish from the West every day that the wind will permit, exclusive of what are caught in the environs; and consist of Red Mulletts, John Dories, Soals, Cod, Turbot, Pipers, Gurnets, Mackrel, Herrings, Lobsters, Crabs, and Prawns.

The operation of Hawling the Seine, (a most extensive fishing-net so called) is much attended to by the company, and affords a variety of curiosities to strangers.

Invalids find great refreshment from walking or riding upon the Beach; the Sea

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Breeze is soft and salubrious ; the sands exceedingly firm and pleasant under foot ; and the Company are in no wise incommoded by dust.

There are also many delightful rides near this place, tho' it has the appearance of being confined : we shall enumerate a few ; and those who wish to explore further, will have sufficient inducement.

To the right, over the Bridge, takes you to Sandsfoot Castle, where there is a fine view of the Island of Portland. Go round by the Ferry-house, and there are a variety of extensive sheep-walks over Wyke Nap, by Lane House Farm, and round by the turn-pike Road which leads to Abbotsbury.

The Dorchester road, as far as Upway, a delightful little village, four miles from Weymouth, goes to Martin's Town ; from whence the right hand road leads to Maiden Castle, and by keeping along that ridge of hills (Weymouth being in sight almost all the way) the excursion may be extended to almost any distance, and return by Osmington.

The country is also delightful to Lulworth Castle ;—to Abbotsbury ;—to Portland ;—to Dorchester, &c. &c.

Nearly contiguous to the road which leads to Wyke, is a neat house, built by Mr. Isaac Buxton, a Merchant of London ; designed and executed by Mr. Crunden, which does credit to the architect.

Near

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Near the Pier Head Fishing and Sailing Boats are constantly in waiting to attend strangers.

To Lulworth by water from the above Pier, is about ten miles.

To Portland Castle about three miles ; by land four.

To St. Alban's Head, which is the furthest land you see facing the Bay, to the East, is about sixteen miles.

To Portland, by land, a narrow passage is crossed in a Ferry-boat, constructed so as to convey horses and carriages, &c. with great safety.

The CHURCH of MELCOMBE REGIS was dedicated to our Blessed Saviour, and stands near the center of the town. It consists of a body and two aisles of equal length and height : the body is supported by six arches, and seems to have been the old Chapel. On a stone near the Church, being part of the old West door of the Chapel, is this date, 1580, perhaps when the Chapel was repaired.

That a Chapel stood here formerly appears by the Bishop of Sarum's letter to the Dean of Dorchester, to cite William le Towe, and Robert de Durtesdyche, Presbyters, for intruding into the Chapel of Melcombe, belonging to the Mother Church of Rappole, Anno Dom. 1301. This seems afterwards to have gone to decay ; for the Founders of the Dominican Priory alledge that there was

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no place dedicated to God in Melcombe. — Mr. Willis thinks it was anciently consecrated to the Holy Trinity.

In 1605 a new church was built on the scite of the chapel, and made parochial; and in 1606 it was consecrated by Dr. Zouch, Suffragan to the Bishop of Bristol, who named it Christ Church. The greatest benefactors towards building it were certain citizens of London. This was done pursuant to an act 1 Jac. I. 1604, setting forth, That the church of Radipole is a mile and a half from any part of Melcombe, and so small that it cannot receive a sixth part of the parishioners; that in Melcombe is a chapel of ease, not able to contain above half of the inhabitants, who are ten to one. It was then enacted, that the inhabitants of Melcombe may, on the ground where the chapel stands, erect a church, and enclose the waste grounds abutting on the North and South of the chapel, parcel of the possessions of the town of Weymouth and Melcombe, to make a convenient church yard. This church to be called the parochial church; and that such divine service, &c. and other parochial rites which were formerly done by the minister of the old church of Radipole, for the inhabitants of Melcombe, shall be done in the new church. Radipole to be reputed a chapel of ease to it, yet to retain such parochial rites by the minister

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minister of the new church, as were performed in the old church, or church yard. The Patron of Radipole to have the same right of presentation in the new church as he had in the old. A mansion house in Melcombe, with a garden, the inheritance of Thomas Barefoot, Mayor, in the East Street, or New Street, (at present a mason's yard) and bounded by the sea, shall be for the incumbent of the new church.

The present incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Grove. The Lady Brown, of the Frampton family, as is reported, was a great benefactress, as appears by her arms in the East window of the North aisle. The Corporation Seat is adorned with the arms of the united towns in copper.

Sir Samuel Mico, Knt. and Alderman, by will bearing date September the 25th, 1665; made the following remarkable and generous bequest to this town, which being erroneously stated by Mr. Hutchins, the following is a faithful extract from the will :

“ Item. I give ten pounds to the town
“ of Melcombe Regis, in the county of
“ Dorset ; I give my house standing on the
“ East end of the Key of that town, called
“ the George Tavern, or Inn, with the
“ yards or any other grounds thereunto be-
“ longing, with the profits thereof, to put
“ out three poor children apprentices yearly ;
“ to the Corporation of Weymouth and
“ Melcombe

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“ Melcombe Regis, in the county of Dorset,
 “ I give four hundred pounds of lawful
 “ money of England to be laid out in lands,
 “ the profits thereof to be bestowed—twenty
 “ shillings yearly on some good divine that
 “ they shall yearly chuse, when he hath
 “ preached a sermon in the church of Mel-
 “ combe aforesaid, on the Friday immedi-
 “ ately before Palm Sunday every year, the
 “ rest to be paid that day to ten poor de-
 “ cayed seamen of that Corporation of the
 “ age of threescore years or upwards, in
 “ equal proportions, or so many of them
 “ within that number, that are so qualified,
 “ who are to be at the hearing of that ser-
 “ mon, or so many of them as are able.”

The Lady Brown gave 20s. per annum to
 the church, and the like sum to the poor.
 Mr. Hodder the interest of 10l. to the poor.
 Doctor de Sella Nova, the interest of 5l. to
 the poor. Mr. Middleton the interest of
 100l. of which now remains 25l. These are
 given for ever. Madam Elizabeth Heysome
 gave 30l. to bind out three poor boys.

Bernard Michel, of Weymouth and Mel-
 combe Regis, merchant, by will dated the
 22d of March, 1646, gave (among other
 bequests) to the poor of *Weymouth* 33s. 4d.
 and to the poor of Weymouth and Mel-
 combe Regis, ten bushels of sea coal. To
 six poor women of Melcombe Regis, six
 bushels

bushels of sea coal yearly for ever; to be paid out of the rent of his freehold lands. The King's Head Inn in this town was a part and parcel of the bequest, and the same has hitherto been paid by the owners thereof.

Thomas Hardy, of Melcombe Regis, Esquire, (who died in 1599) endowed the Borough of Dorchester with the yearly revenue of 50l. as follows:—To the clergyman of St. Peter's 20l. to a school-master 20l. to the usher 20 nobles, (6l. 13s. 4d.) and to the alms women five marks, (3l. 6s. 8d.)

From the preceding historical facts it will appear, that Weymouth has been a maritime as well as mercantile town of some antiquity. Of late years the chief trade carried on here has been ship building, which has employed many workmen, to the benefit as well as reputation of the place.

In its present state Weymouth has become, and is rapidly growing more considerable, from the great concourse of polite company by which it is now frequented for Sea-bathing: for this purpose the Bay is far better adapted than that of any other watering place upon our coasts; whilst the inhabitants by such an influx of money have been encouraged to rebuild, repair, and greatly enlarge the town, which in little more than twenty years has undergone a considerable transformation.

The late Mr. Allen of Bath first recommended

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mended Weymouth as a bathing place.— Being himself advised about the year 1763, to use Sea-bathing, he had a bathing machine constructed for his own use, and happily received great benefit. The recommendation of this gentleman induced others to visit the place, which soon recommended itself, and became the publick resort of the first company from every part of the kingdom; and his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, in the year 1780, from passing a Winter at Weymouth, found so much benefit, that he was induced to build a house facing the Bay for his own residence.— Other gentlemen have followed this example; and we may venture to prognosticate, that the advantages arising from natural situation, viz. an open communication with the Sea, and a Bay sheltered from every interruption even in tempestuous seasons, added to a healthy, pleasant circumjacent country, as well as the great Western road for its approach, must ultimately leave this spot unrivalled for Sea-bathing at any season of the year.

The town of Melcombe consists principally of a range of buildings facing the Bay, and two streets running parallel to each other which terminate at the market place; together with others, of less magnitude, between these and the bridge that unites it with Weymouth on the opposite side.

At the entrance of the town from Dorchester, are the Assembly Rooms, and nearly contiguous

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contiguous to these the Duke of Gloucester's house. A little beyond are a range of handsome alms-houses, built by Sir James Thornhill, and designed for decayed seamen, but never endowed.

The Town Hall, with a Prison beneath, stands in the Market Place.—And

Near the centre of the Bay is a commodious little Theatre erected by the Manager of the Exeter Company; and in St. Thomas's Street is a Circulating Library, now enlarged so as to consist of many thousand volumes*.

The bathing machines, which are now multiplied to between twenty and thirty, make a formidable arrangement upon the Beach, and are in constant employment for several hours every morning; during which the succession of ladies and gentlemen on this spot greatly enliven the scene.

The author of the Tour through Great Britain, speaking of this place says, “Weymouth of late years has been much frequented for its commodious Sea-bathing, which it furnishes in a manner superior to any other place in the kingdom. The general tranquillity of the Bay, the clearness of the water, the softness and almost imperceptible descent of its shore, are so

* This Library is rather calculated as a collection of books of elegant amusement than a selection for the use of the learned; it is proper, however, to add, that nothing licentious or immoral is admitted.

“favourable

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“ favourable for the purpose of Bathing even
“ to the most timorous and debilitated, that
“ I do not wonder at its being the resort of
“ many people of the first distinction. It
“ has all the requisite accommodations which
“ are furnished by other publick places; such
“ as assembly rooms, coffee houses, billiard
“ tables, &c. &c. and houses are continu-
“ ally building for the better accommoda-
“ tion of company, which is found annually
“ to increase.”

Weymouth no sooner became a place of publick resort, than it was found requisite to accommodate the company with Publick Rooms for balls and assemblies, which were first opened on the Weymouth side of the water; and upon this acquisition, Mr. Plomer, who then officiated in the capacity of Master of the Ceremonies at Bristol, was invited to perform that office here, which he held till the decline of his health in the Autumn of the year 1783. In the Summer following came on an election of Master of the Ceremonies, when the candidates were Mr. Rodber, an inhabitant of Weymouth, and Mr. Morris of the Dorsetshire Militia; the former of whom, after a smart contest, was elected by a considerable majority, and now holds that office; who, with the approbation of the Subscribers, has established the following

RULES

RULES and ORDERS.

IT being absolutely necessary in all polite assemblies to have some regulations established, without which no order or decorum can be preserved, the company are humbly requested to comply with the following Rules :

I. That Gentlemen are not to appear in the Rooms on Tuesday or Friday Evenings, in *boots*, or Ladies in *riding habits*.

II. That the Balls shall begin as soon as possible after seven o'clock, and finish precisely at eleven.

III. That Gentlemen and Ladies who dance down a country dance, shall not quit their places till the dance is finished, unless they mean to dance no more that night.

IV. That no Lady or Gentleman be permitted to dance in *coloured gloves*.

V. That

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V. That after a Lady has called a dance, and danced it down, her place in the next is at the bottom.

VI. That no tea table be carried into the Card Room.

VII. That Gentlemen will be pleased to leave their *swords* at the door.

VIII. That no *dogs* are admitted.

T. RODBER,

Master of the Ceremonies.

The Old Rooms, already mentioned, have for some years been disused; and are now converted to other purposes; but there are still good lodgings on the Weymouth side, though not so numerous as in Melcombe.

A Hot Bath has also been lately provided, cut out of an immense block of solid Portland stone, and admirably adapted to the purpose; — likewise a Cold Bath of sea water, for accommodating invalids, unable to bear greater fatigue; either of which may be resorted to at any hour of the day or night.

To

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To strangers, and particularly those unacquainted with the sea coasts, the great bank of Shingles bounding West-bay from Portland Reach, will afford great amusement. — There are wonderful variety of pebbles, both in colour and texture; many of these have been found to bear a fine polish, and have been converted into seals and other trinkets. — The Bay of Weymouth, at different seasons, is also found replete with fine specimens of sea weeds and shells; and whilst the fishermen are engaged in their avocations, upon hawling the Seyne, bring to shore extraordinary productions of the ocean, well worthy inspection, and highly entertaining to the curious.

The principal roads throughout Dorsetshire are justly esteemed equal to any in England, and superior to most. The distances from Weymouth to the following places, are,

From London,	- - -	128 miles.
Oxford, by Salisbury,	104	
Southampton,	- -	60
Winchester,	- -	68
Exeter,	- - -	53
Bath,	- - -	65
Bristol,	- - -	75
Portsmouth,	- -	81
Plymouth,	- -	96

To

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To this DESCRIPTION of WEYMOUTH it has been judged requisite to add an Account of LULWORTH CASTLE, the ISLAND of PORTLAND, MAIDEN CASTLE, ABBOTS-BURY, SHIRBORNE, the AMPHITHEATRE near DORCHESTER, and the MINERAL WATER at NOTTINGTON.

LULWORTH CASTLE,

DISTANT from WEYMOUTH about 14 miles, appears from Tyrrel's History of England, to have been a Castle ever since the year 1146, when Robert Earl of Gloucester, took that fortress for the Empress Maude. It is a noble pile of building, a little North of the church, upon the edge of the park, on a rising ground, commanding a fine prospect of the sea, from an opening between the hills; and from the top of the castle is a most extensive view over the country, especially on the North and East. It is an exact cube of 80 feet, with a round tower at each corner 30 feet in diameter, rising 16 feet above the walls, which, as well as the towers, are embattled. The offices are under ground,

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ground, and arched with stone. The principal front is to the East. Over the doors at the entrance are the statues of two ancient Romans in their gowns; and on each side of the door, which is supported by four pillars of the Doric order, is a large niche, and over them two shields, on which were the arms of Weld, now worn out.

The house consists of three stories, but the towers of four. In each front are three rows of four windows; and in the towers are four rows of three each, exclusive of the offices.

The castle in its present form was built by Thomas Howard, Viscount Bindon; was begun in 1588, and finished in 1609. It was bought of the HOWARD family, by Humphrey Weld, Esq. in 1641, and though the Earl of Suffolk resided here in 1635, little of the inside work was finished, when the present owner Thomas Weld, Esquire, fitted it up and completed it in its present elegant taste.

This seat has had the honour of entertaining King James I. when he came on his Western progress to hunt in this park and the isle of Purbeck, anno 1615: and also King Charles II. and the Dukes of York and Monmouth, whose names the apartments still bear in which they slept.

It is reckoned, for its uniformity, one of the finest seats in the county, and was justly

E

admired

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admired by Charles II. The large gardens adjoining, and the groves of trees that almost surround the edifice, add greatly to the beauty and grandeur of the place; and it is perhaps one of the best furnished private houses in the kingdom. The apartments shewn to strangers, are as follow:—

The HALL, or Entrance, forty-six feet in length, and twenty in width. Over the doors are the arms of the successive owners of the castle; and on the frieze, over the screen of columns, are painted the arms of the family, from the year 1350, down to the present time. On the other side of the screen, on the frieze, are the arms of those into which any of the WELD family have intermarried, since the above period; elegantly painted by Mr. Hague.

The DINING PARLOUR is forty-six feet by twenty-five, and nineteen feet high. At one end is a capital organ, erected in 1777, and built by Mr. Seede, junior, of Bristol.

The PICTURES are,
A Family Portrait, by *Sir Peter Lely*.

A ditto, — by ditto.

A ditto, — by ditto.

A ditto, — by ditto.

A ditto, — by —

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- A Dance at a Spanish Wedding.
- A Spanish Wedding Feast.
- A Family Portrait, by *Sir Peter Lely*.
- A ditto, — by *Sir Godfrey Kneller*.
- A ditto, — by ditto.
- A View of this Castle, by *De Bruyne*.
- And a fine Picture of Ruins.

The BREAKFAST PARLOUR.

- The Adoration of the Three Kings, by *De Vos*.
- Saint Paul and Saint Anthony in the Desert,
by *D. Teniers*.
- A Portrait, by *Angelica Kauffman*.
- A Family Picture, by *Holbein*.
- A ditto, by —

In this room also are a large collection of strong Likenesses, mostly family pieces, with some of their friends, all penciled by the celebrated *Giles Hussey, Esq.* of Marnhull, in Dorset: the cieling, and other ornaments, were painted by *Mr. Hague*.

The DRAWING ROOM.

This Room is fifty feet by twenty-five, and eighteen feet high. The cieling, from a design of *Mr. John Tasker's*, is the performance also of *Mr. Hague*. The chairs and settees are worked in silk, with elegant carved and gilt frames. The noble glasses were manufactured near *Prescot* in *Lancashire*. The carpet, which is woven to answer

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the compartments in the cieling, was made by MOORE, of Chiswell-street, London, and is not only the largest, but supposed to be the most elegant he ever made.

THE LIBRARY

Is twenty-six feet by twenty-one, is neatly fitted up, and contains about 2000 volumes of the best authors.

THE KING'S BED-CHAMBER

Is twenty-four feet by twenty-one, and eighteen feet high. The State Bed and hangings are of blue Damask, as are the chairs and window curtains.

Mrs. WELD'S DRESSING-ROOM.

Il Reposo, or the Holy Family resting in their Flight into Egypt, by *C. Lorraine*.

A Family Picture, by *Battoni*.

A ditto, — by *Beach*.

Miniature Pictures, by *Master Laurence*, then eleven years of age.

A Family Picture, by *Carpentier*.

A ditto, — by ditto.

A ditto, — by —

A ditto, — by —

A Crucifix, — by *Rottenhammer*.

The Last Supper, by one of the School of *Rubens*.

A Pencil Likeness, by *Mr. Hussy*.

A ditto of the Chevalier St. George, by ditto.

In

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In the STRIPED TOWER.

A Family Portrait.

In the GREEN TOWER.

A Landscape and Horse, by *De Bruyne*.

About a mile South of this Castle, on the top of a very high hill, is a Fortification, surrounded by three ramparts and ditches. Its area about five acres. The country people call it *Flowers Barrow*.

A very fine ride from this place to Corfe Castle, distant about 26 miles; supposed to have been built by King Edger, who sent for workmen out of Italy, and was in all probability the Founder of this once noble structure; now one of the finest ruins in Europe, considering the extent of ground on which it stands. It is about half a mile in circumference, its form oval, and must have been one of the most impregnable fortresses at that time in this kingdom.

The situation and strength of this fortress rendered it of great importance. Here King John kept the Regalia of the Crown, and it was the place of confinement for persons of the highest rank, particularly of King Edward II.

It is separated from the town of Corfe by

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a very deep ditch, now dry. Over this is a stately bridge of four high arches.

Passing the second bridge, of one arch, is a most surprising piece of ruins. The left side of the gate, with the tower, is separated from the wall and the rest of the gate, having, as some imagine, been undermined, in order to demolish it. Whatever may have been the cause, the effect, as well as appearance, is wonderful; it projects four feet nine inches beyond the side, and a mass of twenty-three feet two inches in width.

This ancient and magnificent fabric (now the property of Mr. Bankes) is reduced to a heap of ruins, and remains a lasting monument of the dreadful effects of anarchy and rebellion in the rage of civil war. The vast fragments of what is called the King's Tower, (from its being supposed to be the spot where the cruel murder of Edward, King of the West Saxons, was committed by his mother-in-law Elfrith, or Elfrida;) the round towers leaning as if ready to fall; the broken walls and vast pieces of them tumbled into the vale below; form such a scene of devastation as must strike every spectator with horror.

At some distance is *Brownsea*, the seat of Humphrey Sturt, Esq; who at vast labour and expence has highly improved a spot till then the most rude and uncultivated; which leads to *Swanwich*, a place famous for exceeding fine stone quarries.

But

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But to return to *Lulworth*.—The Castle is two miles Eastward of West Lulworth, where is a house of entertainment; and on the foot path between this place and Lulworth Cove is a most delightful view of *St. Alban's Head*, over the rocks on the South East of Warbarrow Bay, and also over West Lulworth, almost the whole length of Portland Island.

Lulworth Cove is a natural basin, surrounded with very high cliffs, in the shape of a horse-shoe, of which the opening forms the entrance. It is 1380 feet in diameter, twenty-one feet deep at low water; admits vessels of eighty tons burthen, and is a great natural curiosity; as are also the lands hereabouts, which form the most romantic and pleasing variety of prospects.

This Cove is about ten miles distant from Weymouth, from which it is an easy and pleasant sail; yet it may be proper to hint to strangers, that the gale which carries them pleasantly thither may so far retard their return as to leave them the whole night upon the water. It has therefore been found most convenient to be met by carriages or horses at Lulworth.

The best road is round by Dorchester; passing *Warmwell*, the seat of — Richards, Esq; and through the town of *Winfrith*.

PORTLAND ISLAND,

AS it is commonly called, is more properly a peninsula; it receives its name from its situation, opposite the Port of Weymouth, from which it is distant about two miles. The island is encompassed on all sides by a ridge of inaccessible rocks, except on the South, where it slopes away from the Light-houses to a low shore; from the North, the highest part of the island, in clear weather, may be seen half over the British Channel, though it is here of considerable breadth. Its circumference is about seven miles on the top, four and a quarter in length, and about two in breadth. The island is one continued rock of stone, of which it is said 9000 tons have been dug annually. The soil, though shallow, is fertile, and produces small sheep, the flesh of which is esteemed the best in England. It is almost destitute of wood, except on the South; so that the inhabitants burn principally stone coal, and cow dung dried. The grounds are enclosed with dry walls; good fresh springs of water are here in plenty; one breaks out at the foot of the North hill, which soon turns a mill. The inhabitants, about 1300 in number, are a rough, hardy people.

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people. They were famous formerly for flinging stones.

This island gave title to the Earl of Portland, 8 Car. I. and in 1689 William Bentinck, Esq; a native of Holland, was created Baron of Cirencester, Viscount Woodstock, and Earl of Portland.

In 982 the Danes landed in three ships and plundered the island.

In 1142 the Earl of Gloucester took it from King Stephen, for the Empress Maud.

In 1502 Earl Godwin came from Bruges, in Flanders, with a fleet to invade England; and sailing Westward, also plundered this island.

In 1404 the French landed here, but were repulsed.

In 1587 and 1596 the island was fortified. Leland gives a particular account of this island in his Itin. vol. 3, p. 66, 67.

In the civil wars, 1643, the Parliament very early made themselves masters of this isle and castle; but in August, in the same year, intelligence came that the castle and isle of Portland, whereof Sir Edward Sydenham, Knt. Marshal, was Governor, which was taken about the March preceding, was again reduced.

A gentleman who well knew the castle, undertook, with the Earl of Carnarvon, to repossess it with sixty men, which were granted

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granted him. He furnished himself with the Parliament's colours, and marching with great haste towards the castle, as if flying from an enemy, called to the guards, that he had brought some forces, but was closely pursued by the Earl of Carnarvon, on which the ports were thrown open. By this means they made themselves masters of a place of very great importance, and of infinite wealth, the rich furniture and treasure taken by the rebels out of Wardour Castle, being lodged here.

The first action between Blake and the Dutch fleet was near Portland, on the 18th of February, 1652.

A little East of the scite of the old church is a very ancient castle, in form of a pentagon, full of small loop holes. The foundation of it was much above the top of the tower of the church, and must have been almost impregnable before the invention of ordnance. It has been commonly called Rufus's Castle, perhaps because it was built by him.

The New Castle was built by King Henry the Eighth. It stands at the entrance of the island, opposite to Sandefoot, or Weymouth Castle. — The Duke of Lauderdale was confined here.

There are now only eight guns remain mounted, in this Fort, the higher tier being taken away.

In

In a little closet over the gun-room is this inscription carved on the wainscot :

God save kinge Henri the VIII. of
that name, and prins Edward, be-
gotten of quene Jane, my ladi Mari
that goodli virgin, and the ladi
Elizabeth so towardli, with the
kinge's honourable counsellers.

John Taver, Esq; was appointed Governor in 1761.

Mr. Aubrey, in his *Monumenta Britannia*, says, here is a double worked camp, which he judges to be British.

There are two Light-houses on the South point of the island, which till lately were kept lighted with a pair of bellows like a smith's forge; but this having many inconveniences, they now afford a light with very large lamps, and a bright reflector.

In February 1665 much loss was sustained at the great pier, which was quite demolished by the rock sliding into the sea, occasioned by its being overloaded on the top, upon a clayish foundation; and in December, 1734, a 100 or 150 yards of the North East end of the island sunk into the sea, by which the pier and road were greatly damaged. The shock occasioning several chasms, discovered on the shore, between the old pier and the
castle,

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castle, many large skeletons buried between two stones set edgeways, and another laid over them.

In the Quarries and on the shores of this island, is an inexhaustible fund of natural curiosities.

The stone of this island, so famous for its durability and beauty, first came into repute in the reign of James the First; since which St. Paul's, and almost all other publick buildings, are constructed with it. Westminster Bridge had from hence stones of three, four, and five tons weight each:—Black Friars Bridge also is built with it; and what seems very extraordinary, the whole strata lies upon a bed of bluish clay.

In the Quarries in the North West corner are found many petrified shells; cockle, oyster, muscle, and the turbinated kind, are common; many of the heart kind, and some cornua ammonis. Spirals or screws abound in the free stone; some very large are peculiar to this place, and are esteemed a great curiosity. They are perfectly solid, and form an imaginary axis, equal and regular.

In the Quarries in the South West part is found a sort of stone called Sugar Candy stone; one sort is pale, and another amber colour, formed by an insipid exudation of juices, thus petrified and candied.

The stone coal is found in the North West corner, East of the Castle; it gives a
clear

clear light, and is in all respects like the Kimeridge Coal.

Not far from the Light-houses, in the South part of the island, is a remarkable hole through the earth, wide at top, but narrower below, which opens into a large subterraneous cavern, 50 by 21 feet square, unsupported. Through this aperture, in a South East wind, and a high tide, the water then fills the cave, and will rise like a spring above ground. From the top may be seen the sea, with which it communicates, and in tempestuous weather affects the eye and ear with terrible sensations. The cavern is so large, that small craft with their sails have been driven into it, and seen through the opening.

In the West part are two remarkable caverns, to which no termination has yet been discovered.

On the shore, among the sea weeds, is often found the *Isidis Plocamos*, as Pliny describes it from Juba; a sort of shrub growing in the sea, not unlike coral. It has no leaves, but when cut changes colour, and the least fall breaks it.

The Beach or bank of pebbles thrown up by the sea, which joins to the main land above Abbotsbury, makes Portland a peninsula. It runs parallel with the sea for above sixteen miles, and the largest stones lye nearest Portland, gradually diminishing, till
at

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at Swyre they are no bigger than peas, or particles of fine gravel. On these pebbles, without any seeming nourishment, grows much eryngo, as also sea or beach kale.

WEST-BAY, so called, is the Bay to the West of this bank, and is of vast extent;—begins at Portland and ends at Torbay. This Bay is fatal when ships, coming from the West, omit to keep a good offing, or are taken short by contrary winds, and cannot weather Portland; they are driven on the beach, where they may remain on board in perfect safety, but quitting the vessel during the storm is fatal. It is observed, that more Dutch ships are lost here than those of any other nation; and not a Winter passes without one or more wrecks.

The old Church was dedicated to St. Andrew in 1475, and was a large but rude fabrick, at the Southern extremity of the island. The tower had no bell in it, and was detached near three feet from the body of the church.

The new Church, which is supposed to stand nearly in the center of the island, was begun in 1754. It was not finished till about 1764; and in July 1766 was consecrated by Dr. Newton, Bishop of Bristol, when it was dedicated to St. George;—it cost 3000*l*.

Upon this island are several Hotels, well frequented during the Bathing Season, by company from Weymouth, where the accommodations generally give satisfaction.

MAIDEN CASTLE.

ON the left in the road from Weymouth to Dorchester, after mounting Ridgeway Hill, is one of the largest and most complete Roman camps in the West of England. There is, says Mr. Coker, a tradition, that it was never lost or won. This camp was their Summer station, or *Castra Æstiva*.

Its extent and strength is wonderful, consisting of a treble ditch and rampart, whereof the inner ones are very deep and high. The form is oval. There are two entrances on the East and West. The entrance Westward has six ditches and ramparts; that at the East five. The entrances are rendered extremely intricate. About its middle to the Southward the ramparts are low, and almost discontinued; perhaps for the convenience of resorting to the river, which runs at its foot. The Area is divided in the centre by a low ditch, drawn across from North to South; and on the South side is the mouth of a cave.

Learned investigators have traced out the particular uses of each part of this vast Area. Westward, facing the Prætorium or General's Tent, the infantry are supposed to have been stationed, in number not less than three
legions

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legions or 1800 men. Eastward, behind the Prætorium, the horse and carriages; between both the tribunes and other officers.

Including the ramparts and ditches, this camp does not contain less than 120 acres, of which the Area makes thirty.

The Roman Way leading from Dorchester to Weymouth, passes near the East side.—The Via Iceniana runs about a mile North of it, whence branches a road that leads to the West entrance.

From hence is a most delightful prospect, and a view of barrows, or tumuli, scarce to be equalled in the world; they reach for many miles on the tops of the hills to the Southward, from Sutton Poyntz to Longbredy.

In the Winter of 1781, some of these tumuli, just above the parish of Bincombe, were opened in the presence of his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Mr. Drax, and several other gentlemen, when they found an urn, and divers warlike instruments; and in the Spring of 1784, by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland; but we have not learnt what discoveries were then made.

ABBOTS.

ABBOTSBURY

IS distant from Weymouth about eight miles. The best road is through Poßum. This little market town was anciently famous for its monastery, and now for its ruins. The Swannery, and a Decoy, takes it's name from the *Abbots Town*. They depend chiefly on fishing, but have a cotton stocking manufactory. This place has been unfortunately burnt down five times within these last twenty-five years, owing to the buildings being all thatched, which communicated the flames; the last time in October, 1784, when twenty-one dwelling houses, besides outhouses, stables, and barns were consumed. A subscription was opened at Weymouth by way of affording the poor sufferers some immediate relief, which was gratefully accepted.

The Monastery, was built in the very infancy of Christianity amongst the Britons.

The Church belonging to this Convent seems to have stood a little North of the Abbey, parallel to that and the present parish church.

St. CATHERINE'S CHAPEL stands about half a mile south west of the town, on a high round hill, called *Chapel Hill*. It remains nearly entire, and is esteemed a venerable piece of antiquity, serving both for a sea and land mark; when or by whom built is not known.

F

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The *Abbey* stood a little south from the present parish church on a rising ground, south of the town. Somewhat south of the Abbey Precincts is a very ancient barn, which when entire was the largest in the county.

West of the Abbey, under the Chapel Hill, is a ground of fourteen acres called the Abbey Garden, where the remains of terraces and fish ponds are still to be seen.

Here is a Free School for twenty poor boys; at first endowed with 12*l.* a year, since that encreased to 20*l.* by Mrs. Horner.

About a quarter of a mile south-west of Abbotbury is a large decoy, well screened with wood, where great plenty of wild fowl resort.

A little west of the town is a noble Swanery; at present the number is not more than 7 or 800, which formerly were 1500—or as some say 7 or 8000.

Vast quantities of mackrel are caught here, and along this shore from Portland to Bridport: they are generally taken from the middle of March, till after Midsummer, in nets or seines, some of which are from 100 to 120 fathom long, and eight and a half deep in the bosom.—Thirty and forty thousand are frequently caught at a draught; which supply the London and Country markets, as well as Weymouth.

On a rising ground near the Beach, the late Earl of Ilchester built for his Countess a summer retirement, called Strangeways Castle.

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Castle.—It was begun in 1765, or 1766, and is in the true gothic style.

Between Abbotsbury and Weymouth, near the sea, is the parish of *Fleet*, where is a large and ancient house, the property of George Gould Esq; of Upway.

Near this place, about two o'clock in the morning, on the 14th of January, 1748, the weather hazy, and no light appearing from the light-houses on Partland, the ship *Hope*, from Amsterdam, pierced for 30 and mounting 24 guns, ran ashore on the Beach, having on board at least fifty thousand pounds in specie, besides a considerable quantity of gold dust, staple silver, some jewels, and other valuable commodities. When she struck, the mast providentially fell with the shock, which enabled the crew 74, in number, to get safe on shore. The vessel divided into three parts; the upper deck was thrown upon a ridge of pebbles; the cabin where the treasure mostly lay, was buried in the sand and sea weed;—but the hull never appearing was supposed to have rolled back into the sea.

Near 30,000l. was recovered to the proprietors, after paying the salvage. This being the richest ship ever wrecked on the Western coast, it brought multitudes from all parts both of this and the neighbouring counties, in hope of sharing the plunder.

SHIRBORNE

IS twenty six miles from Weymouth; the road lies through Dorchester, which is crossed at the head of the town, and is in the road to Bath and Bristol. It is a large town, and pleasantly situated. At this place are some capital silk mills, which employ a great number of hands.

This town gave title of Baron to Sir John Digby of Shirborne, the 16th James I. 1618. The title became extinct on the death of his grandson John Earl of Bristol 1698, but was revived 1765, when Henry Lord Digby was created Baron of Shirborne. The manor now consists of 7000 acres, and includes all the other manors and tithings.

The CHURCH is situated in the west part of the town, and was anciently the Cathedral of the Bishops of Shirborne. It is a venerable regular structure, the largest and best in the county, and adorned with excellent workmanship, within and without, in the improved Gothic style.

It is 207 feet in length, 102 broad, and 100 in height. The Tower 154 feet high, and contains six exceeding heavy bells. The tenor is said to weigh 60,000lb weight, and to have been brought from Tournay.—A gift of Cardinal Wolsey's.

On

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On a black marble tablet, under the Great
South Window,

Is this INSCRIPTION by Mr. POPE:

To the Memory of

ROBERT, second Son, and MARY, eldest Daughter
of WILLIAM Lord DIGBY.

“ GO, fair example of untainted Youth,
“ Of modest Reason, and pacific Truth;
“ Go, just of Worth, in ev’ry Thought sincere,
“ Who knew no wish, but what the world might hear;
“ Of gentlest Manners, unaffected Mind,
“ Lover of Peace, and Friend to human kind;
“ Compos’d in sufferings, and in joys sedate,
“ Good without noise, without pretensions great;
“ Go, live, for heaven’s eternal Year is thine,
“ Go, and exalt thy mortal to divine.

“ And thou, too close attendant on his doom,
“ Blest maid, hast hasten’d to the silent Tomb;
“ Steer’d the same course to the same quiet shore,
“ Nor parted long, and now to part no more.
“ Yet take these tears, Mortality’s relief,
“ And, till we share your joys, forgive our grief;
“ These little rites, a stone and verse receive,
“ ’Tis all a Father, all a Friend can give.

“ A. POPE.”

SHIRBORNE CASTLE,

THE Seat of Lord Digby, stands a little south from the ruins of the Old Castle, and is built in the form of the Letter H. Mr. Coker says, " Sir Walter Raleigh began to repair the Old Castle, but altering his purpose, he built in the park adjoining to it, from the ground, a most fine house, which he beautified with orchards, gardens, and groves, of such variety and delight, that whether you consider the goodness of the soil, the pleasantness of the seat, and other delicacies belonging to it, it is unparalleled in these parts."

The middle was erected by Sir Walter; his arms are still in one of the windows, dated 1594. The rest was built by the Earl of Bristol, after the Restoration, out of the ruins of the Old Castle.

Here is a grove, planted by Mr. Pope, and a noble serpentine river, with a fine stone bridge of several arches, built by the late Lord Digby. It is surrounded by a large park of three hundred and forty acres well stocked with deer; and is, upon the whole, one of the most venerable and beautiful seats in England.

DORCHESTER,

D O R C H E S T E R,

DISTANT from Weymouth about eight miles, is the County Town, where the Affizes are holden, and the Knights of the Shire elected. The adjacent country is level and beautiful. It was formerly computed, that 600,000 sheep were fed within a circuit of six miles, and at present the number is supposed to be considerably encreased. The market is held on Saturday.

At the lower end of the Town a new County Goal has lately been erected, which cost 3000 l. The architect Mr. Tyler.

The principal Inns are the King's Arms and Antelope.

From the King's Arms every morning about Seven o'Clock, except Sunday, a Post-coach goes to London, through Blandford, Salisbury, Andover, &c.

A Diligence also to London from the same Inn every Afternoon about Five o'Clock.

Also a Post-coach to Exeter about Five every Morning.

And likewise a Diligence to Exeter.

A Post-coach from the Saracen's Head, in Friday Street, London, arrives at the King's Arms every Evening about Six o'Clock, and

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proceeds the next Morning to Exeter. A Diligence also sets out from the same Inn at Six every Morning, and arrives the next Morning at Dorchester.

Another Coach comes from the Bell, in Friday Street; and also a Diligence.

Waggon's set out from the same Inns three or four times a week; and a Carrier from Weymouth attends regularly at Dorchester to bring whatever is directed to Weymouth.

Another Diligence goes from the Antelope; and the old Stage, from the Phoenix, every day. *

Dorchester is famous for its beer, and is encompassed by many pleasant walks.

About a mile on the London Road, to the right, is Kingston House, the Seat of — Pitt, Esq. and at a small distance, to the left of the road from hence to Weymouth, is the compleatest Amphitheatre now to be seen any where, called MAUNDBURY.

* This Account of the Coaches and Waggon's, to and from London, passing through Dorchester, will be found particularly useful to Company who visit Weymouth, and other Parts of the West of England.

AMPHITHEATRE.

THIS celebrated Monument of Antiquity, the first discovery of which was made by Sir Christopher Wren, in his journies to the Island of Portland, has since been examined with great attention, and a very accurate account given of it by Dr. Stukeley in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*.

It is situated on a plain 1500 feet from the walls of Dorchester, on a gentle ascent all the way, close by the Roman road, already mentioned.

From this Amphitheatre is seen *Poundbury*, another ancient Camp west of Dorchester, Maiden Castle, and the tops of the South Hills, as far as the eye can reach, covered with an incredible number of Celtic Barrows.

It is raised of solid chalk, not encompassed by any ditch : the jambs at the entrance are somewhat worn away. On the top is a walk of eight feet broad, gradually ascending from the ends, and a terrace of 12 feet broad, and four high, but somewhat injured by the trampling of men and horses at the modern executions, which for some time were accustomed to be here. There are three ways leading up to the terrace, one at the upper end over the *Cavea*, and one on each side. Several horses
abreast

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abreast may go upon the terrace, ascending by the ruins of the Cavea. The receptacle for the gladiators, wild beasts, &c. is supposed to have been at the upper end, under the ascent to the terrace, there being vaults under that part of the body of the work. The area is, no doubt, much elevated by ploughing and manuring for a series of years, yet it preserves a concavity; for the descent from the entrance is still great: the middle is now near ten feet lower than the level of the field.

On the outside of the upper end is a large round hillock, a considerable distance beyond the exterior verge, and regular in figure, which has been somewhat appertaining to the work. There are two rising square spots, on the shortest diameter, four feet above the level of the terrace, that will each hold twenty-four people: their side breadth is fifteen feet, and their length from North to South twenty feet.

Dr. Stukeley says, it is computed to consist of an acre of ground, and was originally about 140 feet the shortest diameter, and 220 the longest.

The famous Amphitheatre at Verona, is but 223 feet by 136, and the vast Coliseum at Rome but 263 by 165, reckoned by the French measure.

The breadth of the side-work, or solid, taken upon the ground plot, is equal to one half

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half the longest diameter of the area, or a fourth of the whole longest diameter. Its perpendicular altitude, from the top of the terrace to the bottom of the area, is a fourth of the longest diameter of the area. In the middles of each side are a number of seats thirty feet broad, just over the more elevated part of the circular work. Dr. Stukeley computes it capable of containing 12,960 persons.

At Mrs. Channing's execution, the 21st of March, 1705, who, at nineteen years of age, was strangled and burnt in the middle of the area, for poisoning her husband, there were supposed to be ten thousand spectators present.

Some years ago a coin was ploughed up here, with this inscription: — IMP. M. JVL. PHILIPPUS, AUG. Reverse, LAETIT. FUNDAT. — This Emperor reigned A. D. 240.

U P W A Y

IS four miles north west from Weymouth, and takes the name of *Way* from the little river that rises here at the foot of a steep hill, near the Church.

The Capital Mansion of the Manor of *Waybayouse*, stands at the most Westerly part of this delightful little village, and was formerly the residence of the Goulds.

About

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About the middle of it is the seat of George Gould, Esq. On the left hand entering the village from Weymouth is the seat of Warren Lisle, Esq; and facing the road a handsome stone house, heretofore the property of John Floyer, Esq.

Through this villa is an excellent turnpike road to Martin's Town, Bridport, Lyme, and so on to Exeter, and the West of England.

It is a pleasant ride round from Upway, through Chickerell, to Weymouth.

NOTTINGTON WATER.

A Famous medicinal spring, about two miles and a half out of Weymouth, in the road to Upway.

Russel on Mineral Waters, p. 308, says, "The Water has a strong sulphureous smell, with a flavour resembling that of spoilt eggs, and the colour in a tin vessel is blue. At the fountain head a shilling put into the water becomes of a gold colour in two or three minutes; but the solution of silver produces a yellow and dusky brown cloud, with a dark brown grumous sediment. From the various experiments that have been made, it appears that

that the predominant minerals with which this water is impregnated, are sulphur and natron, and it is remarkable for curing foulnesses of the skin by internal use."

Dr. Rutty in his Synopsis of Mineral Waters, page 518, says, "The combination of sulphur, and the native alkaline salt or nitre of the ancients, in waters, as far as I have observed, occurs most frequently; and therefore I have reduced such waters to the first class of nitro sulphureous waters, and shall describe two of this sort, recommending to other Physicians a further search after them in their respective countries, which, very probably, would furnish us with a more ample catalogue of them: a search of the more importance, because of the singular virtues and usefulness of such waters in medicine.

"Nottingham, near Weymouth, in Dorsetshire, supplied the first water of this class, having been transmitted from thence to Dr. Fothergill in London, in 1747, and from him to me in Dublin, in 1749, and taken up in a dry season.

"It was of a strong foetid sulphureous smell, and of a flavour resembling that of boiled eggs, and in one bottle like rotten eggs; and the colour of it, viewed from above, in a tin vessel, was blue.

"It was a little heavier than distilled water, for the hydrometer stood in it at $4\frac{2}{3}$ —when in distilled water it stood at 5, 0.

"At

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“ At the fountain head a shilling put into the water, and let lie two or three minutes, became of a gold colour. Silver immersed in it here, soon became of a leaden colour, and copperish hue, and next morning black. The solution of silver exhibited a yellow and dusky brown cloud, and a dark-brown grumous sediment. The solution of copperas turned it of a dun blackish colour, with a small pale brown sediment.

“ The water curdled with soap, and turned whitish with spirit of sal ammoniac and solution of pot-ashes; lime water exhibited a whiteness on the sides of the glass; solution of alum was clear with it.

“ Spirit of vitriol made a minute ebullition with it.

“ Syrup of violets turned it a pale green colour; galls gave a pale amber, and a green cloud near the surface, which descends deeper in three days. In another experiment this mixture was milky, with a deep green bluish circle at the surface; sumach tinged it of a pale amber.

“ Beef infused and boiled in this water, was white; but we shall see a different effect of the salt on mutton.

The ANALYSIS.

I. SPONTANEOUS.

“ THIS water kept in bottles above a year, as above observed, exhibited a considerable

able plenty of light bodies floating in it like small leaves, and such as I have also observed in our Swadlingbar, and some other sulphureous waters, being an assemblage of the sulphureous particles which were originally diffused through the water; and which being dried, were partly brown and partly red, and sparkled and flamed on the red hot iron, which may serve as a beautiful illustration of the formation of variegated scum, which frequently appears on the surface of the chalybeate and sulphureous waters.

II. ARTIFICIAL.

“ When the water was exhaled to the consumption of half, the sulphureous smell was lost.

“ A gallon exhaled to a dryness, left forty two grains of a pale-brown redish sediment, which was of a brackish and urinous taste, turned of a deep green with syrup of violets, emitted a strong, pungent, and urinous smell, when rubbed with sal ammoniac, and a pungent and foetid smell when rubbed with salt of tartar, and made a great ebullition with spirit of vitriol.

“ The salt separated from the indissoluble matter (of which last I had two grains to ten of the first) dissolved in distilled water, was clear with oyl of tartar, agreeable to its alkaline quality thus manifested by the concentration of its parts, notwithstanding that the
water

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water itself curdled with soap, and whitened with alkalis as above; an argument of an acid in the water: and so tho' the beef infused and boiled in the water itself was white, the salt, rubbed on the raw flesh of mutton, reddened it agreeable to the effect of the alkaline nitre: and,

“ Agreeable to this was the result of the mixture of this salt, with blood flowing from the veins, viz. which it rendered more florid, and less tenacious than the same blood unmixed.”

COROLLARIES.

I. “ The predominant minerals in Nottingham water are sulphur, and the native alkaline salt or natron, of both which it gives most or all the essential evidences.—Accordingly it agrees to other sulphureous waters alike impregnated, being eminent in curing foulnesses on the skin by internal use.

II. “ Alkali's and acids co-exist in this, as well as divers other waters; and, therefore, we should be cautious in our reasonings on their operations and effects, as owing merely to an alkaline salt, when they may be rather owing to a neutral salt, formed by the combination of the acid with the alkali, or at least when the action of the alkali may be restrained, according to the mixture of the acid in a greater or lesser proportion with it.”

T H E E N D.



